(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) As per information provided by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers, the installed capacity of passenger cars including multi-utility vehicles during 2000-2001 was 11,46,000 and production during the same period was 6,30,592.

(b) to (d) The Government has not given any direction to the manufacturers to produce only fuel efficient cars. In an open market situation competition is driving car manufacturers to produce more fuel-efficient cars with improved technologies.

Valmiki-Ambedkar Awas Yojana

*118. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the ambitious Valmiki-Ambedkar Awas Yojana aimed at providing or upgrading shelter for those living in urban slums;

(b) the modalities worked out to select the cities; and

(c) by when this Yojana is likely to be implemented in Punjab, in general, and Ludhiana and Jalandhar, in particular?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Government has decided to launch Valmiki-Ambedkar Awas Yojana during this year with the objective of providing shelter or upgrading the existing shelter for people living below poverty line in urban slums. This is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, which is applicable to all the States / UTs, including Punjab, and covers the urban areas having slums. It is for the State Governments to consider, accept and implement the Scheme in the cities having slum population. Punjab Government has already shown interest in the proposed scheme.

Mandatory use of indentity cards in elections

*119. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission proposes to enforce mandatory use of identity cards from the next General Elections;

(b) if so, whether the process of issuing of identity cards to all the citizens in the country has since been completed;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which the mandatory use of identity cards during the next General Elections is going to check bogus voting etc.?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (d) According to the Election Commission of India, it is expected that the mandatory use of photo identity cards along with certain alternative means of identification during the next general elections, on the lines of procedure adopted during the last general elections to various Legislative Assemblies will be able to check bogus voting to a large extent.

(b) and (c) The Election Commission has informed that more than thirty-nine crore electors representing 63.5% of the eligible voters in the country (excluding Jammu and Kashmir where the scheme has not been extended) have been provided photo identity cards. The scheme to issue photo identity cards to electors is, however, not a project but a programme for the completion of which no time limit can be fixed as the registration of electors is a continuous and ongoing process (excepting for a brief period between the last date for filing nomination and completion of electoral process) on account of more number of persons becoming eligible for the right of franchise on attaining the age of 18 years as also due to movement of electors.

Inclusion of 'Thachar' Community in SC list

*120. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are in receipt of a resolution from Thachar Service Society, Kerala, seeking the revision of the existing list of Scheduled Caste communities and to incorporate the 'Thachar' community in the list; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The request for inclusion of 'Thachar' community as synonym of Thandan in the Scheduled Caste list of Kerala has been referred to the State Government of Kerala for their comments.